

Pink Floyd show rocks stadium

By Kris Kodrich
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Packing more power than the Wisconsin football team, more colorful antics than Bucky Badger, and definitely more decibels than UW-Madison's marching band, the awesome Pink Floyd rattled Camp Randall Stadium Friday night in Madison's largest rock concert ever.

Under a clear, star-filled sky with a brilliant quarter-moon overhead, the British supergroup turned up the volume and unleashed a dazzling display of lights, lasers, smoke and a gigantic flying pig before 45,132 people at the football stadium.

The group's dark, moody music and elaborate, mysterious theatrics were an instant hit with fans — young and old.

"They sound great," said Danette Garcia, 13, of Madison, who was watching the show with her friend, Evetta Sloan, 13, of Madison.

Evetta added, "I like the lasers and stuff. It was neat. I never saw anything like it."

It was the third Pink Floyd concert for Mike Kuntz, 37, of Milwaukee, who first saw the band about 15 years ago. "This is just as good as the first one," he said.

The 2½-hour show seemed to run smoothly and security was in full-force. About 60 police officers — along with a 200-member security team — kept watch.

"We're exceptionally pleased with the crowd behavior and the logistics," Michael Williamson, assistant to UW-Madison Chancellor Donna Shalala, said during the band's second set.

"People seemed to be in a better disposition than on a football Saturday," Williamson added.

A 34-year-old Watertown man was arrested for possession of marijuana and two 19-year-old men were ticketed for underage drinking, said UW-Madison Police Capt. Robert Hartwig, who directed security for the concert. Hartwig said police had few other problems. "It just seemed like a fun-loving crowd."

Police were investigating a report from an Arizona man, 19, who said he was cut by a man who demanded his concert ticket. No arrest was made.

From the opening synthesized notes of "Shine on You Crazy Diamond" to the closing fireworks during "Run Like Hell," Pink Floyd demonstrated why it continues to be one of the most popular rock bands in concert more than 20 years since its founding.

Its quadraphonic sound boomed from 76-foot-tall sound towers. Its monstrous special effects, which included a flying bed, computerized lighting, circular film screen and a giant mirrored sphere, meant even those in the rear of the stadium received the full psychedelic experience.

During the song "Dogs of War," giant flames shot up off the stage; the heat could be felt a dozen rows back.

Two sisters, Linda Wood, 24, and Lisa Packard, 26, both of Fitchburg, said they were loving the show.

"It brings back memories of when I was in high school," Packard said.

Alcoholic beverages were not allowed in the stadium, and rules against carry-in beverages were strictly enforced. Some members of the crowd seemed to be inebriated — police said several were taken to a detoxification center — but generally the audience was tame and restrained.

The crowd was much smaller than for Badger football games. Because of the



State Journal photo/SCOTT SEID

David Gilmour, lead singer for Pink Floyd, rouses the Camp Randall crowd.

elaborate stage, the stadium's capacity was reduced from about 78,000 to about 52,000, and a large part of the upper deck during the concert was empty. All tickets were for reserved seating, including 7,000 on the plywood-and-tarp-protected football field.

UW-Madison's athletic department stands to make at least \$70,000 for the use of the stadium, while the National "W" Club, a private group that helps finance UW athletics, got all the proceeds from concession sales.

People started to gather in the stadium neighborhood in large numbers about 6 p.m., although many houses in the area were the site of parties that started earlier.

"We're hoping for 150 to 200 people over the night," said Dan DeVoe, 23, who was hosting a party with six half-barrels of beer. "It will go to showtime, during showtime and after showtime," he said, adding that three of the five roommates in the house graduated last weekend.

The concert also brought a lot of street vendors, including four men who were selling unauthorized Pink Floyd shirts. Police stopped them and will forward their names to federal authorities for possible prosecution.

Parking in private lots nearby was selling for as much as \$10. Twenty university parking lots within several blocks of the stadium offered parking for \$3. Shuttle bus service also was provided from a large university free lot, as well as city parking ramps downtown.

A group of young people outside the stadium was passing out 50,000 pink flyers with a Pink Floyd design on the front and a religious message inside. Karen Madden, 29, of Madison, said the message was intended to

counteract the negative lyrics of Pink Floyd regarding loneliness and alienation.

"This is basically about Jesus and how he can solve those problems," she said of the flyer.

Bonnie Burkeland, of Sun Prairie, had her family selling pink carnations for \$1 each. She bought 4,500 of the flowers from a California company and thought it would be a good way to make some money.

"We better sell them all because they're not going to fit on my television set," she said.

Carnations weren't the only thing pink in honor of the occasion. People wore pink sunglasses, pink tie-dyed shirts and pants, and pink shoes. Several people, including Gary Lee, 23, of Madison, even had pink hair. He got the \$25 haircut, he said, because he's "a Pink Floyd fanatic. They're great."

On their way into the stadium, fans were told by a recorded message that "Tonight we are setting the standards by which future Camp Randall Stadium concerts will be judged."

Several neighborhood residents had been concerned about the possible disruption of the area by the concert. UW-Madison officials came up with extensive plans to help keep the problems to a minimum. Williamson said the plan seemed to work, although it will take two to three weeks for an assessment of the concert to be complete.

■ Neighborhood survives Camp Randall blast/1D

■ Concert's no big deal for some/1D